

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 725

By Hargrove

A RESOLUTION to recognize the contributions of Brother Mel Meyer to the world of fine arts.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly is honored to recognize those artists whose craft has gained worldwide recognition and whose work is a testament to the beauty of the human spirit; and

WHEREAS, Brother Mel Meyer, a Marianist Brother based in Saint Louis, is one such estimable artist. Known far and wide by the simple moniker Brother Mel, his paintings and sculptures have been universally recognized as some of the finest pieces of modern art; and

WHEREAS, after joining the Marianists in 1947, Brother Mel gained his Master of Arts degree from the University of Dayton. During his many travels, he has studied with such renowned artists as “Yoki” Aebisher and Jacques le Chaveillier and earned another Master of Arts degree at the University of Notre Dame under the tutorship of Ivan Mestrovic and Jean Charlot; and

WHEREAS, utilizing his art as a proclamation of his unwavering faith, Brother Mel has used his many gifts to praise the magnificence and wondrous mystery of God; and

WHEREAS, in 1999, Brother Mel was the recipient of a letter to artists written by Pope John Paul II, a letter which extolled the virtues and role of the artist within the realm of God’s creation. The missive was addressed to “all who are passionately dedicated to the search for new ‘epiphanies’ of beauty so that through their creative works as artists they may offer these as gifts to the world;” a more apt description of Brother Mel and his works has never been uttered; and

WHEREAS, as he approaches his seventy-seventh birthday, Brother Mel remains a prolific and inventive artist who continues to expand the variety of media in which he works. He

currently expresses his artistic vision using stone, metal, watercolor, fresco, acrylics, and handmade paper; and

WHEREAS, having used his artistic ability to serve as the voice of his belief, Brother Mel has built a strong following comprised of people from all walks of life, backgrounds, and faiths, and he should be properly recognized for his contributions to the fine arts community in Nashville and around the globe; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby recognize Brother Mel Meyer for his many contributions to fine art and commend his unstinting dedication to revealing the majesty and beauty of God and his creation through his works.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.